

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action, claim 1 has been amended to avoid the rejection of the claims under 112, second paragraph. Support for the amendments to claim 1 regarding the micro-matter can be found on page 13, lines 17-32 of the specification.

Claim 1 has also been amended to more specifically claim the nonwoven fabric as consisting essentially of fibers entangled with each other with a high-pressure water jet stream, that it is water integratable, and the content of the nonwoven fabric. Support for the content of the fabric can be found in claim 3, which has been appropriately amended.

Finally, non-elected claim 5 has been cancelled to advance the prosecution of the application.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,591,513 to Suzuki and by U.S. Patent No. 6,013,587 to Truong and under 102(e) by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0100240 to Takai.

The present invention relates to an industrial wiper suitable for use in the clean room of an electronic products industry or a pharmaceutical products industry that requires a high degree of cleanness.

The wiper comprises a nonwoven fabric consisting essentially of fibers entangled with each other by a high-pressure water jet stream.

The wiper has excellent performance, for example, less falling-off of micro-matter (dust) of 100 µm long or more therefrom as measured by a method using a super sonic

wave, excellent organic solvent resistance, especially less in material dissolved therefrom into acetone and larger water absorption.

Suzuki relates to a fiber-implanted nonwoven fabric comprising a combination of short fibers and a stretchy and elastic foamed sheet. The nonwoven fabric is intended to be used as a material of a product to be resiliently pressed against the skin of the human body. (See col. 2, lines 12 to 16 of Suzuki).

On the other hand, the present invention relates to a wiper for use in the clean room of the electronic products industry which requires a high level cleaning.

Thus the present invention is quite different from Suzuki not only in its field of use, but also the problems to be solved. Moreover, the fabric is different from Suzuki.

In Suzuki, a fiber-implanted nonwoven fabric is produced by implanting short fibers on a web into a stretchy and elastic foamed sheet using a high velocity water stream.

On the other hand, in the wiper of the present invention, the nonwoven fabric consists essentially of fibers containing cellulose filament fiber of 40% by weight or more, that are entangled with each other by a high-pressure water jet stream.

Accordingly, since Applicants' claims now exclude, inter alia, the elastic foamed sheet of Suzuki, it is submitted that the claims are no longer anticipated by this reference. Implanting a web of short fibers into an elastic foamed sheet with a water jet does not form a nonwoven fabric consisting essentially of the claimed entangled fibers. Its withdrawal as a ground of rejection under 102(b) is, therefore requested.

Truong relates to nonwoven articles of entangled fibers having high durability and absorbent characteristics. The article is a nonwoven web of organic fibers of polymers

having a plurality of pendant hydroxyl groups and a binder. A minor portion of cellulose-type fibers can be included in the web. (Col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 6).

A problem to be solved in Truong is to improve the durability and absorption of the nonwoven article.

On the other hand, the problem to be solved in the present invention is to provide a wiper having high level cleaning properties.

Thus the present invention is quite different from Truong not only in its field of use, but also the problems to be solved.

As noted, Truong's nonwoven article of entangled polymeric fibers contains a binder. On the other hand, the present invention consists essentially of the entangled fibers.

Accordingly, since Applicants' claims now exclude, inter alia, the binder of Truong, it is submitted that the claims are no longer anticipated by this reference. Its withdrawal as a ground of rejection of the claims under §102(b) is, therefore requested.

Takai relates to a water disintegratable sheet of which fibers are hydroentangled about each other, comprising at least one kind of primary fibers having a fiber length of at most 10 mm and bast/leaf fibers having a fiber length of at most 10 mm.

A problem to be solved in Takai is to provide a water disintegratable sheet.

On the other hand, a problem to be solved in the present invention is to provide a water integratable wiper having high level cleaning properties.

Thus the present invention is quite different from Takai not only in its field of use, but also the problems to be solved.

As noted, Takai's sheet is water disintegratable, even though it is made of hydroentangled fibers. On the other hand, the nonwoven fabric of the present invention is water integratable, i.e., it is not water disintegratable.

Accordingly, it is not believed that Applicants' claims are anticipated by Takai. Its withdrawal as a ground of rejection of the claims under §102(e) is, therefore, requested.

It is believed claims 1-4 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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